

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 CU-02 AF-06 SAM-01

BIB-01 /077 W

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R 071518Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5977

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0231

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO

SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY. DURING JANUARY 7 CALL BY DCM, PORTUGUESE COUNSELOR ANDREAD CALLED THE JANUARY 2-3 VISIT BY PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. ANDRADE PROVIDED LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION ON THE VISIT. SOARES'S LATE ARRIVAL APPARENTLY COST HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE RECEIVED BY A HIGHER RANKING SOVIET THAN GROMYKO. END SUMMARY.

2. ANDRADE SAID THAT VISIT WAS AT SOARES'S INITIATIVE, THOUGH SOVIETS WERE GLAD TO OBLIGE. VISIT HAD BEEN BLOCKED OUT FOR TWO DAYS, BUT SOARES'S PLANE WAS DELAYED BY BAD WEATHER AND DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THE EVENNG OF JANUARY 2, LEAVING NO TIME FOR ANYTHING BUT THE GROMYKO DINNER ON THAT DAY. BECAUSE OF THE DELAY, ANDRADE SAID, PLANS FOR SOARES TO BE RECEIVED BY ONE OF THE SOVIET LEADERS (ANDRADE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHICH ONE) WERE SCRUBBED.
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3. ANDRADE DID NOT PROVIDE MUCH INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT WAS IN THE COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID THAT AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC TIES, TO WHICH THE COMMUNIQUE REFERS, IS STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF BEING WORKED OUT. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE A SEPARATE SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT BUT THOUGHT SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE WOULD BE SUBSUMED IN THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

4. ASKED THE MEANING OF THE COMMUNIQUE'S VAGUE REFERENCE TO BILATERAL COOPERATION "IN THE POLITICAL AREA, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPEAN MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST," ANDRADE SAID HE ASSUMED THE REFERENCE WAS TO CSCE.

5. ON AFRICA, REGARDING WHICH THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES A POSITIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD LISBON'S POLICY, ANDRADE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO SOARES'S ACCOUNT, THOUGH THEY MADE NO COMMITMENT TO PERSUADE RECALCITRANT AFRICAN STATES TO END THEIR ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF PORTUGAL.

6. DCM ASKED ABOUT SOARES' REFERENCE, TO HIS TOAST TO GROMYKO, TO PORTUGAL'S BUILDING A "ROAD TO SOCIALISM." ANDRADE ANSWERED THAT PHRASE OBVIOUSLY MEANS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT TO A PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST THAN IT WOULD TO A SOVIET COMMUNIST. HE CONCEDED THAT SOARES, IN USING IT, MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FLATTER HIS HOSTS.

7. ANDRADE SAID NO PREPARATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE FOR A GROMYKO VISIT, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

8. THE SOVIET PRESS GAVE THE SOARES VISIT FAIRLY HIGH EXPOSURE. IN ADDITION TO PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE (PRAVDA JANUARY 4) AND A SUMMARY OF THE GROMYKO DINNER TOASTS (PRAVDA JANUARY 3), IZVESTIYA JANUARY 6 CARRIED A COMMENTARY SETTING THE VISIT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. CHARACTERISTICALLY, IN PRAISING FAVORABLE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, THE IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR (L. KAMININ) ALSO WARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF FORCES WHO WOULD LIKE TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK IN PORTUGAL.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW00231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0888
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750173/aaaac1wl.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOARES VISIT TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO, (SOARES), (ANDRADE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006